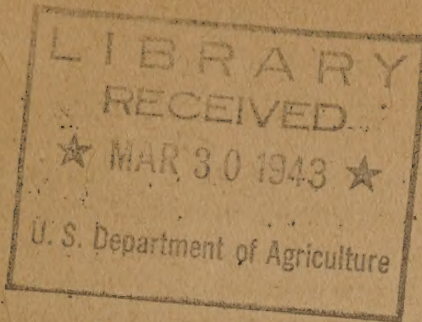


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IT'S WORTH
GOING OUT
OF YOUR
WAY TO
PREVENT
AN
ACCIDENT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

SAFETY DIGEST

BE CAREFUL TODAY

PERSONNEL DIVISION

CINCINNATI OHIO

NUMBER 16

MARCH 1943

SAVE MANPOWER FOR WARPOWER

UNDER ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN TIMES OF PEACE THE EXPRESSION THAT LOST TIME CAN NEVER BE REGAINED APPLIES PRIMARILY TO THE LOSS SUFFERED BY THE INDIVIDUAL IN POTENTIAL ACHIEVEMENT AND PERSONAL SUCCESS. TODAY THAT EXPRESSION CARRIES FAR GREATER IMPORT. TODAY WE ARE ENGAGED IN AN ALL-OUT, TOTAL WAR. IT IS A WAR OF RESOURCES AGAINST RESOURCES, PRODUCTION AGAINST PRODUCTION, AS TRULY AS ARMIES AGAINST ARMIES. WE WHO ARE ENGAGED IN THE BATTLE OF RESOURCES AND PRODUCTION AT HOME ARE A PART OF THE GREAT AMERICAN ARMY, WHOSE UNIFORMED SOLDIERS ARE ACTIVE ON MANY FRONTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. IT IS ESSENTIAL, THEREFORE, THAT ALL OF US IN THE CIVILIAN FORCES ADHERE TO CERTAIN PRINCIPLES OF SAFETY TO INSURE THE UNINTERRUPTED USEFULNESS OF OUR MAN POWER.

NO ARMY COMMANDER WOULD NEGLECT TO EXERCISE THE UTMOST PRECAUTION AGAINST PREVENTABLE

LOSSES INFLICTED BY AN ENEMY. YET WE, THE CIVILIAN FORCES OF OUR ARMY, ACCEPT THE NEEDLESS ANNIHILATION OF 40,000 OF OUR NUMBERS EACH YEAR IN FATAL AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS. IN ALL THE MONTHS OF LARGE-SCALE BOMBING ATTACKS IN EUROPE, FEWER PERSONS WERE KILLED BY BOMBS AND RESULTANT FIRES IN GREAT BRITAIN THAN WERE KILLED DURING THE SAME MONTHS IN THE UNITED STATES BY AUTOMOBILES ALONE. AND THIS DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE MANY THOUSANDS OF WORKERS PERMANENTLY LOST TO PRODUCTION FROM OTHER CAUSES OR THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF WORKERS TEMPORARILY UNABLE TO WORK BECAUSE OF NON-FATAL INJURIES.

A COMPETENT MILITARY LEADER WOULD NOT IGNORE THE NECESSITY OF ADEQUATELY CLOTHING AND PROPERLY PROTECTING HIS MEN AGAINST ILLNESS FROM EXPOSURE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER. YET WE OF THE CIVILIAN FORCES SACRIFICE INESTIMABLE MANHOURS OF

PRODUCTION THROUGH ILLNESS DUE TO WEARING OF CLOTHING NOT SUITED TO THE WEATHER AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT. AND, CERTAINLY, NO MILITARY COMMANDER WOULD PERMIT HIS MEN TO IGNORE THE DANGERS OF NEGLECTING MINOR INJURIES SUBJECT TO INFECTIONS. YET WE OF THE CIVILIAN ARMY LOSE MILLIONS OF MAN-HOURS OF NEEDED EFFORT, BY FAILURE TO TAKE THE SIMPLE PRECAUTIONS NECESSARY TO SAFEGUARD MINOR LACERATIONS AND ABRASIONS AGAINST INFECTION AND SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS.

EVERY WASTED MAN-HOUR OF LABOR CONSTITUTES AN IRRECOVERABLE LOSS IN OUR EFFORT TO PROVIDE CANTONMENTS, AIRFIELDS, ORDNANCE PLANTS, TANKS, GUNS, SHIPS, PLANES, AND ALL THE OTHER MATERIAL ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION OF THIS WAR. THE ARMED FORCES ARE DEPENDENT UPON OUR EFFORT AND SUPPORT FOR COMPLETE AND DECISIVE VICTORY.

SAFETY PAYS IN OBVIOUS WAYS

SURVEYS MADE AND RECORDS COMPILED IN RECENT YEARS REVEAL THAT NINETY PER CENT OF ALL ACCIDENTS ARE PREVENTABLE, BY THE EXERCISE OF REASONABLE CARE. INJURIES CAUSED BY CARELESSNESS AND ILLNESS RESULTING FROM IMPROPER PRECAUTIONS AND NEGLECT OF ADEQUATE MEDICAL ATTENTION, ARE NO LONGER MATTERS OF INCONVENIENCE AND PERSONAL LOSS. TODAY THEY ARE MATTERS OF NATIONAL CONCERN. THEIR PREVENTION IS YOUR PATRIOTIC DUTY.

(KANSAS CITY FAIR LEAD)

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

ANYONE WHO DELIBERATELY PERMITS UNSAFE CONDITIONS TO EXIST ON A WAR PROJECT, AND ANYONE WHO CONDONES CARELESSNESS ON THE JOB, RISKS THE ODIOUS OF BEING CALLED RIGHTFULLY A "SLOWER UPPER", A "HINDERER" OF OUR WAR EFFORT. IF AN EMPLOYEE ON A WAR PROJECT IS KILLED, ANY PERSON WHO DELIBERATELY PERMITTED THE UNSAFE CONDITION OR PRACTICE TO EXIST THAT CAUSED THE FATALITY, IS MORALLY AS GUILTY AS IF HE HAD TAKEN A PISTOL AND HAD WANTONLY SHOT DOWN ONE OF OUR SOLDIERS.

THE PENALTY FOR THE LATTER ACT WOULD BE DEATH, FOR THE FORMER THE PENALTY AT PRESENT IS INSIGNIFICANT. IT WILL BE WELL FOR ALL OF US TO REVIEW THE RECENT PROCLAMATION OF OUR PRESIDENT WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THESE WORDS:

"BY TAKING A HUGE TOLL IN LIFE AND PROPERTY, ACCIDENTS DEFINITELY HINDER OUR NATIONAL WAR EFFORT. TO INSURE MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY WE MUST HAVE MAXIMUM SAFETY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY."

(SYRACUSE SAFETY SENTINEL)

THE COST OF ACCIDENTS

REGARDLESS OF THE ACCIDENT OR THE NEAR-ACCIDENT, SOMEONE ALWAYS SUFFERS. ALL TOO OFTEN IT IS THE INDIVIDUAL WORKMAN, HIS NEIGHBOR, OR THEIR FAMILIES.

WHENEVER AN ACCIDENT OCCURS, IT IS THE RESULT OF SOMEONE'S SHORTCOMINGS. MANY TIMES IT IS THE RESULT OF IGNORANCE, BUT MORE OFTEN THE ACCIDENT CAUSE CAN BE TRACED DIRECTLY TO "FAILURE TO THINK" EITHER BY THE INJURED OR A FELLOW EMPLOYEE. ACCIDENTS RESULTING FROM LACK OF FORETHOUGHT ARE INEXCUSABLE WHEN THE INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED KNOWS BETTER.

WE FORMERLY SAID THAT AN ACCIDENT WORKED AN UNNECESSARY HARDSHIP ON YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL, YOUR FELLOW WORKMAN, AND YOUR EMPLOYER, BUT WE HAVE A FIFTH FACTOR APPEARING NOW AND THAT IS YOUR UNCLE SAM. WHEN YOU HAVE AN ACCIDENT, YOU SUFFER ALL OF THE PAIN, INCONVENIENCE AND LOSS OF PAY; YOUR FAMILY SUFFERS BECAUSE OF THE ADDED BURDEN AND LACKS SOME OF THE BETTER THINGS OF LIFE BECAUSE OF YOUR CURTAILED INCOME; YOUR NEIGHBOR AND HIS FAMILY SUFFER THE SAME HARDSHIPS AS YOU DO IF HE IS INJURED DUE TO YOUR CARELESSNESS; YOUR EMPLOYER LOSES YOUR SERVICES FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME, AS WELL AS PRODUCTION, AND THE COST OF REPLACING BROKEN MACHINERY. YOUR GOVERNMENT IS DIRECTLY CONCERNED BECAUSE IN THESE TIMES OF WAR EVERY MAN-HOUR OF PRODUCTION IS ABSOLUTELY VITAL, AND PERHAPS YOU ARE THE BEST MAN FOR THE JOB.

FIND OUT WHAT THE HAZARDS OF YOUR JOB ARE AND DO YOUR LEVEL BEST TO AVOID THEM ALL.

(CROSS ROADS SAFETY BULLETIN)

ARE YOU?

RIGHT NOW AND EVERY MINUTE SINCE DECEMBER 7, 1941 AND EVERY MINUTE OF THE FUTURE FOR HOW LONG NO ONE KNOWS, SOMEONE HAS BEEN OR WILL BE KILLED, IS OR WILL BE SUFFERING FROM WOUNDS AND ALL THE AGONIES OF COMBAT WARFARE. AND ALL THIS FOR WHAT? WHY, FOR YOU, SO THAT YOU MAY CONTINUE TO HAVE YOUR INDEPENDENCE OF ACTION AS A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THIS INDEPENDENCE OF ACTION THAT SO MANY IN OUR ARMED FORCES HAVE DIED TO PRESERVE FOR YOU? WE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO ASK THAT QUESTION FOR, CERTAINLY, YOU ARE DOING ALL IN YOUR POWER TO CONSERVE MATERIAL, EQUIPMENT, AND MANPOWER BY DRIVING YOUR CAR IN A SAFE AND CAUTIOUS MANNER.

YOU ARE MAKING SURE THAT ALL IS CLEAR BEFORE YOU START BACKING.

YOU ARE MAINTAINING A SAFE DRIVING SPEED ACCORDING TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE ROAD, TRAFFIC, AND WEATHER, AND NEVER ABOVE THE MAXIMUM SPEED AS SET BY NATIONAL, STATE, OR LOCAL REGULATIONS.

YOU ARE FOLLOWING THE VEHICLE AHEAD AT A DISTANCE SUFFICIENT TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO STOP.

YOU ARE KEEPING ALERT AND HAVE YOUR CAR UNDER SUCH CONTROL IN POPULATED AREAS THAT YOU CAN AVOID HITTING PEDESTRIANS.

YOU ARE NOT ASSUMING THE RIGHT OF WAY OVER OTHER VEHICLES BUT WILL GIVE WAY TO AVOID COLLISION.

YOU ARE MAKING SURE THAT NO VEHICLE IS APPROACHING AT A

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* ITS BETTER TO BE SOLD ON SAFETY *

* THAN SHORT-CHANGED BY AN ACCIDENT *

* * * * *

SPEED OR IN A POSITION TO CAUSE COLLISION WHEN STARTING AWAY FROM YOUR PARKED POSITION.

YOU ARE ALLOWING SUFFICIENT CLEARANCE WHEN PASSING ANOTHER VEHICLE, AND ARE NOT CUTTING IN AND OUT OF TRAFFIC.

YOU ARE OBEYING ALL TRAFFIC-CONTROL SIGNS AND SIGNALS, AND ARE GIVING PROPER SIGNALS TO INDICATE YOUR CHANGE IN DIRECTION OF TRAVEL.

YOU ARE KEEPING TO THE RIGHT OF THE ROAD OR IN THE PROPER LANE AT ALL TIMES EXCEPT WHEN PASSING.

YOU ARE DRIVING NO FASTER THAN 35 MILES PER HOUR.

YOU ARE A SAFE DRIVER.

ARE YOU?

(TRAVELERS STANDARD)

WHY NOT FORESIGHT

THE TRAILS THAT LEAD UP TO ACCIDENTS ARE OFTIMES DEVIOUS, CROOKED PATHS, AND AGAIN THEY ARE BROAD WELL-MARKED HIGHWAYS. NO ONE WOULD THINK MUCH OF A MAN THAT COULDN'T TRAIL AN ELEPHANT WITH THE NOSE BLEED THROUGH FOUR FEET OF SNOW, YET AS WE REVIEW THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED UP TO AN ACCIDENT (AFTER IT HAPPENED) WE ARE AMAZED THAT THE CLEAR MARKING DID NOT ENABLE US TO FORESEE THE INEVITABLE RESULT. FUNDAMENTALLY WE HAVE ONLY TO ASCERTAIN THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT AND REMOVE IT. WHY NOT REMOVE IT BEFOREHAND?

(ENGINEERING FOR SAFETY)

SAFETY INSPECTION

THE BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY IS ENTRUSTED WITH AN INSPECTION SERVICE THAT IS ALL IMPORTANT TO THE GREATEST MEAT EATERS IN THE CIVILIZED WORLD,

THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES. FAILURE IN THEIR DUTIES COULD EASILY BRING CALAMITY AND CRIPPLE THIS COUNTRY SERIOUSLY. POISON ORIGINALLY CONTAINED IN ONE ANIMAL CARCASS COULD AND WOULD SPREAD FROM ONE PERSON TO ANOTHER, UNTIL THOUSANDS WERE ILL AND WE WOULD BE IN THE MIDST OF PLAGUE OR EPIDEMIC SUCH AS HAS WEAKENED CHINA AND RAVAGED EUROPE IN THE PAST. THAT, WITHOUT OUR FEDERAL MEAT INSPECTION SERVICE.

TILL FIFTY YEARS AGO, THERE WAS NO SAFEGUARD AGAINST THE TAPEWORM, THE TUBERCULOSIS GERM, OR THE DREAD ANTHRAX THAT MIGHT BE CONCEALED IN SOME INVITING MORSEL; AND THEN, PRECAUTIONARY HEALTH MEASURES WERE INTRODUCED ONLY BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHO REFUSED TO ALLOW AMERICAN MEAT TO PASS THEIR CUSTOMS WITHOUT THESE MEASURES.

WHEN INSPECTORS REALIZED THE UNSANITARY CONDITIONS THEN EXISTING, STEPS WERE IMMEDIATELY TAKEN TO SET UP AN INSPECTION SERVICE FOR HOME CONSUMPTION AND IMPORTED MEATS, AS WELL AS FOR THOSE EXPORTED.

ACTS WERE PASSED, REGULATIONS WERE INTRODUCED, AND REVISIONS WERE MADE, UNTIL TODAY THE WORK OF THE FEDERAL MEAT INSPECTORS IS BEING DONE WITH GREAT EFFECTIVENESS AND IS MORE PREVENTIVE THAN INVESTIGATIVE. THAT IS IMPORTANT, AND IS ONLY BEING CARRIED THROUGH SUCCESSFULLY BY CAREFULLY CHOOSING AND TRAINING EACH INSPECTOR BEFORE GIVING HIM THE FAR-REACHING AUTHORITY WITH WHICH HE IS INVESTED. THEN,

HIS WORK CANNOT BE SUPERSEDED, IMPEDED, OR IN ANY WAY INFLUENCED BY ANY EMPLOYEE OF THE PACKING-HOUSE, SLAUGHTER-HOUSE OR SUCH PLANT AS HE MAY ENTER AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY OR NIGHT. HE IS ALL-POWERFUL, BUT OF COURSE, HE MUST USE HIS POWER PROPERLY, WHICH IS AS IT SHOULD BE IN THE CASE OF ANY INSPECTOR ON ANY JOB WHERE AN INSPECTOR IS ASSIGNED TO INSPECT.

HERE IS ONE FIELD THAT HAS LEARNED THE PROPER APPLICATION AND BENEFIT OF INSPECTION. HUNDREDS OF OTHERS REALIZE THE BENEFITS BUT FAIL IN THE PROPER APPLICATION.

HERE IS ONE FIELD WHERE THE FINDINGS OF AN INSPECTOR CANNOT BE HIDDEN UNDER A BUSHEL BASKET. HIS VERY SUSPICIONS ARE RESPECTED.

AN INSPECTOR WITH A CENSOR IS A DUD.

(YE SAFETIE CRIER)

FIRE

FOR CENTURIES, FIRE HAS BEEN ONE OF MAN'S MOST USEFUL SERVANTS - AND ONE OF HIS WORST ENEMIES.

LONG BEFORE THE DAWN OF CIVILIZATION, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT FOOD COULD BE MADE MORE TASTY, BODIES COULD BE WARMED, AND LIFE IN GENERAL COULD BE MORE COMFORTABLE AND LIVABLE THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF FIRE, CONTROLLED. MAN LEARNED LONG AGO, ALSO, WHAT A HORRIBLY DESTRUCTIVE ELEMENT IS FIRE WHEN PRECAUTIONS ARE NOT TAKEN TO INSURE ITS PROPER UTILIZATION.

THROUGH THE CENTURIES, NEW

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* PREVENTION BEATS CURE *
*

USES HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED FOR ITS FLAMING POWER. IT HAS BEEN PUT TO WORK ON A LARGE SCALE; MANY OF MAN'S INVENTIONS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF ITS EXTRAORDINARY CAPABILITIES. FORTUNES HAVE BEEN BUILT ON FIRE.

FORTUNES, TOO, HAVE BEEN LOST IN CONFLAGRATIONS. GREAT FIRES TAKE THEIR PLACES IN HISTORY WITH GREAT WARS AND GREAT MEN. LIVES ARE LOST — LIVES ARE SAVED — BY FIRE. ITS POWER FOR GOOD OR EVIL IS LIMITLESS.

IN SAFETY, FIRE PLAYS ITS TYPICAL PARADOXICAL ROLE. IT IS A CONSTANT HAZARD WHEREVER IT IS EMPLOYED; ITS HEAT PREVENTS LOSS OF LIFE WHEN APPLIED TO HUMANS WHO HAVE BEEN INJURED THROUGH IMMERSION, EXPOSURE, OR SHOCK.

MEN WORK IN TIRELESS FASHION TO KEEP FIRE A SERVANT, AND NOT A DESTROYER, OF HUMANITY. OTHERS, THROUGH IGNORANCE, NEGLECT AND CARELESSNESS, UNDO THESE WORTHY LABORS. MAN, TOO, IS QUITE A PARADOX.

LET US RESOLVE TO TREAT THIS FASCINATING, MYSTERIOUS, COMFORTING, AND DESTRUCTIVE ELEMENT WITH THE RESPECT IT DESERVES. THE SAFE RULES REGARDING MAN'S RELATION WITH FIRE ARE TOO WELL KNOWN FOR DETAILING HERE; EVERY INTELLIGENT PERSON KNOWS HOW TO KEEP IT WITHIN BOUNDS. LET US WORK IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH OUR FIRE-PREVENTION ORGANIZATIONS BY ELIMINATING EVERY POSSIBLE CHANCE OF CATASTROPHE THROUGH FIRE.

(YE, SAFETY CRIER)

THE HUMAN FACTOR

IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS, A GREAT DEAL OF STRESS WAS LAID ON THE NECESSITY FOR MECHANICAL SAFEGUARDS AND AUTOMATIC SAFETY DEVICES AS A PREVENTIVE. WHILE AN AUTOMATIC SAFETY DEVICE PUSHES HAZARDS BACK ONE STEP, IT DOES NOT ELIMINATE DANGER. AT SOME POINT IN ITS CREATION OR IN ITS OPERATION THERE MUST BE A HUMAN HAND, A HUMAN BRAIN. IF FAMILIARITY WITH, OR CONFIDENCE IN, A SAFETY DEVICE TEMPTS MAN TO BE CARELESS IN HIS RELIANCE UPON IT, HE WOULD BE SAFER WITH THE STARK HAZARD THAT AWAKENS HIS VIGILANCE. FOR HUMAN HANDS AND HUMAN BRAINS WILL FAIL AT CRITICAL MOMENTS IF PRECAUTION IS RELAXED AT A FATAL BUT UNSUSPECTED INSTANT.

THE EMPHASIS HAS NOW SHIFTED, HOWEVER, FROM THE SAFEGUARDING OF MACHINERY AND ENGINEERING REVISION TO THE REAL HEART OF THE PROBLEM — THE HUMAN FACTOR — DEVELOPING A SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS IN EMPLOYEES AND TRAINING THEM IN SAFE PRACTICES. SAFETY-MINDEDNESS IS DEVELOPED THROUGH TRAINING UNDER GOOD SUPERVISION, CAPABLE OF SETTING THE SCENE SO THAT KNOWLEDGE WILL BE ACQUIRED, IMPROPER ATTITUDES CORRECTED AND UNSAFE PRACTICES ELIMINATED. TO LEAD HUMAN BEINGS INTO SAFE PRACTICES, THE SUPERVISOR MUST KNOW WHAT HUMAN BEINGS ARE LIKE, HOW THEY ACT AND HOW HE CAN TRAIN THEIR ACTIONS TO THOSE DESIRED.

THE WHOLE SAFETY MOVEMENT IS FOUNDED ON THE POSITIVE CONVICTION THAT ACCIDENTS DO NOT HAPPEN, BUT ARE CAUSED, —

AND THAT WE CAN PREVENT ACCIDENTS BY DISCOVERING AND REMOVING THE CAUSES. IT IS MANDATORY, IN ORDER TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS, THAT WE EXERCISE FORESIGHT, INGENUITY, AND IMAGINATION, IN ORDER TO VISUALIZE ACCIDENTS WHICH MAY HAPPEN BECAUSE OF FAULTY PROCEDURE, FAULTY EQUIPMENT, LACK OF PROPER INSTRUCTION OR SUPERVISION, AND TO REMEDY SUCH CONDITIONS BEFORE AN ACCIDENT DOES OCCUR.

(U.S.E.D. SAFETY CIRCULAR)

THE HOME LIFE OF AN EXPERT

A MAN NEVER IS A HERO IN HIS HOME TOWN, THEY SAY. AND WE MIGHT ADD THAT AN EXPERT AND CAREFUL WORKMAN OFTEN IS NO SUCH THING IN HIS OWN HOME, EITHER.

FOR INSTANCE, YOU PROBABLY KNOW AN EXPERT AUTOMOBILE MECHANIC WHO WON'T REPAIR HIS OWN CAR.

THEN THERE'S THE EXPERT WITH EXPLOSIVES WHO PERMITS HIS WIFE TO USE INFLAMMABLE LIQUIDS FOR HER HOME DRY CLEANING THAT GIVE OFF EXPLOSIVE FUMES.

YOU'VE PROBABLY SEEN BROKEN STAIRWAYS AND RICKETY FURNITURE IN THE HOME OF AN EXPERT CARPENTER OR CABINET MAKER.

WE COULD ADD MANY SIMILAR CASES TO THE LIST BUT THE POINT IS THAT MANY OF US WHO ARE UNUSUALLY SAFE AND CAUTIOUS WORKMEN, WHILE ACTUALLY AT WORK, FORGET ALL ABOUT SAFETY WHEN WE GET HOME. HOME ACCIDENTS ARE SECOND ONLY TO AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS AS KILLERS. TRY SAFETY AT HOME.

(THE SAFE WORKER)

• BE CAREFUL OFF THE JOB •
• SO YOU CAN STAY ON THE JOB •
